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## The Rock Ranch – Summer Events

*"Growing Healthy Families with fresh fruits and vegetables, education, exercise and outdoor family fun"*

**THE ROCK, GA. (June 1, 2013)** – The Rock Ranch, a 1500-acre ranch owned by S. Truett Cathy, invites the public to enjoy family fun and fresh produce at its summer events. The Rock Ranch is located at 5020 Barnesville Highway (Highway 36), The Rock, Ga 30285. The ranch is dedicated to "Growing Healthy Families." For more information, visit [www.therockranch.com](http://www.therockranch.com), call 706-647-6374 or find them on Facebook. Their produce stand, U-Pick produce area and new playground are open every Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from now until November but they also have some special events this summer.

**June 15 Blackberry Festival and June 22 Sweet Corn Festival:** The Rock Ranch will host a Blackberry Festival and Sweet Corn Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on consecutive weekends in June (June 15, 2013 and June 22, 2013). Both are free events with an opportunity to purchase a wrist band to enjoy unlimited use of the attractions. These events will mark the beginning of the blackberry and sweet corn picking seasons, respectively.

The produce stand will offer fresh fruit and vegetables, jellies and honey and there will be tasty themed treats such as blackberry cobbler and sweet corn nuggets. The free festivities include corn hole games, a children's bounce house, face painting and a bluegrass band.

Guests who purchase a wrist band for \$10 may enjoy access to attractions that include: the locomotive train, pony rides, paddle boats, pedal carts, the giant jumping pillow, Tiny Town, slide hill, cane pole fishing, the corn box, spider webs, petting zoo and more. Concessions will be sold and The "Cow-A-Bunga" zip lines will be open for those who are not too chicken. These amazing zip lines transport visitors at tree top level across the corn field and over two ponds at speeds over 30 mph. The cost is \$7 to ride the fast lines (800 ft.) or \$12 to ride the long lines (1400 ft.).

Both weekends will also feature a "Swap, Buy and Yard Sale" in the large pasture by Hwy 36. This yard sale event was so successful last year during the Sweet Corn Festival that the ranch has decided to do it on consecutive weeks in 2013. The Rock Ranch will sell surplus items and the community is welcome to reserve a space to sell their yard sale items. Anything from clothes to tools; crafts to puppies may be sold - as long as it's rated "G" the public can set up a booth and sell it. Payment for booths will be collected at the event. To reserve a space, those interested should e-mail [yardsale@therockranch.com](mailto:yardsale@therockranch.com). A space is (\$10 per day) and sellers should bring their own tents and tables or rent tables for \$5 each from the ranch. No food vendors are allowed. There is no charge to come and shop but a wrist band must be purchased for \$10 to play on the festival attractions.

### **June 29 Celebrate America at The Rock Ranch**

Celebrate America is an annual patriotic event, 14 years running. This event features arguably the brightest fireworks show in the state, as there is little to no light pollution on the ranch. The ranch has adjusted the start time of this event to help beat the heat and gates open at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2013. The entry fee is only \$25 per family vehicle (pile 8 in a Suburban and that is only \$3 per person). The admission price includes access to attractions and entertainment. All attractions close at 8:30 p.m. to begin the concert and program before the fireworks. The entry fee for buses is \$35.

This community event is priced per vehicle to allow families to car pool and come out for an affordable evening of fun, music and fireworks to celebrate our freedom as Americans and those who have served and are serving to preserve it.

Attractions include: locomotive train rides, cow train rides, pony rides, slide hill, a petting zoo, paddle boats, inflatable bounce houses, pedal carts, "Tiny Town" children's playhouse village, the corn box, the giant jumping pillow, cane pole fishing, music and dancers, a wide variety of concessions, a gift shop and much more. Guests will also enjoy the "Cow-A-Bunga" zip lines, two zip lines that transport guests from a 60 foot tall tower down a cable at over 30 miles per hour. These zip line rides are only \$12 and \$7.

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## **2013 Calendar of Events**

June 15 - (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.): Blackberry Festival

June 22- (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.): Sweet Corn Festival

June 29 - (5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.) Celebrate America at The Rock Ranch

July 9 - July 27 - (Tues– Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Fun in the Summer Time

September 14 - Farm Strong Endurance Challenge (1 mile, 5k and 10k mud runs)

September 28 - Hats off for Heroes – first Fall Family Fun Day

September 28 - The Rock Ranch Invitational Cross Country Race

October 5 - Lumberjack Day (timber-sports competition featuring, UGA, Clemson, Florida, Tennessee, Auburn and Alabama A&M)

October 12 - The Official Georgia Day of the Cowboy

October 19 - Hot Air Balloon Rally

October 26 - The "Not-So-Spooky" Halloween Festival

November 2 - Pumpkin Destruction Day with professional monster trucks

November 9 - The Great Outdoor Adventure

November 16 - Be Farm Strong

December 7 and 14 - Breakfast and/or lunch with Santa

Selected Nights in December - A Country Christmas In Lights

This working cattle ranch originally opened in 1989 as a result of S. Truett Cathy's passion for agriculture and educating families. The 1,500 acre ranch has added dozens of activities since its inception and attracts families, school groups and businesses alike to enjoy a unique experience in agritourism. The Rock Ranch is located approximately one hour south of Atlanta, one hour northeast of Columbus, and 30 minutes northwest of Macon in Upson County.

**Notice:** No outside food or drink and no pets allowed please.

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